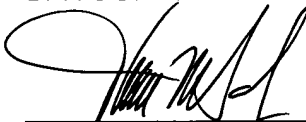


REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-11 have been amended so as to place the claims in better proper U.S. format and to remove the multiple dependencies thereof, and to avoid the surcharge associated therewith. Accordingly, entry of the foregoing amendments and an early and favorable action on the merits of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BATSCHIED ET AL.



Thomas M. Galgano
Registration No. 27,638
GALGANO & BURKE, LLP
Attorney for Applicant
300 Rabro Drive, Suite 135
Hauppauge, NY 11788
(631) 582-6161

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